

R E M A R K S

The Office action of November 13, 2003 has been carefully considered and the application has been amended accordingly.

A revised Abstract is presented herewith to overcome the Examiner's objection.

Four new sheets of drawings are presented in which FIGS. 28-31 are labeled as "Prior Art" in the matter suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-16 are present in the application. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to overcome the rejections/objections based upon Section 112. Claim 9 has been amended by being written out in independent form, and includes the amendatory language of parent claims 1 and 8. Thus, as is indicated by the Examiner, claim 9 is deemed to be allowed.

Claim 1 has been amended to more specifically recite that "the steering means and the double acting cylinder being connected with each other by means of a closed hydraulic circuit...." The amendment has been made to avoid a possible objection that the original claim language was functional in nature. Applicant's respectfully submit that, as amended, claim 1 is still deemed to be generic and, more particularly, patentably distinguishes over the patent to Mercier which has an open circuit because of the presence of the reservoir (88 and/or 88'). Therefore, it is submitted that in view of the amendment to parent claim 1, the rejection based upon Section 102(b) must be withdrawn.

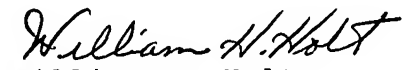
Regarding the Section 103(a) rejection of the claims based upon

Mercier in view of Link, this rejection is respectfully deemed to be in error as being based upon hindsight reconstruction that is not permitted by 35 United States Code 103. There is no teaching or suggestion in the Link patent that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to make the proposed changes to Mercier.

Elimination of the reservoirs of Mercier would change the fundamental nature of the reference, would eliminate the source of make-up fluid, and introduce pressure variants within the hydraulic circuitry. Accordingly, Applicants' respectfully submit that The Section 103 rejection is in error and must be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application is requested and allowance of generic claim 1, and dependent claims 2-8 and 10-16, along with newly amended independent claim 9, is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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